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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

Statement submitted by Fédération européenne des femmes actives au foyer, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2011/1.

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Statement

1. Improving the educational outcomes of women and girls is one of the most important cross-cutting issues and a major focus for action in strategic objective B of the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as for progress and development generally.

Priorities of the Fédération européenne des femmes actives au foyer

- Educational outcomes, including cognitive, social and academic development, rather than simply the incomes of the women and children concerned, should be the focus of intervention by Member States.

- The importance of maternal education cannot be understated: children's educational outcomes are highly associated with maternal education levels. Parents represent the greatest single influence on, and variation in, the educational attainment of their children, and should be supported as the primary educators of their children. All children and their mothers should have at least a basic level of literacy and numeracy, as well as technological literacy. For children, the primary education system should be a key vector for delivery; lifelong learning and community education programmes, with flexible provisions for course delivery, should be developed to target mothers who require numeracy and literacy support (see paras. 69 and 82 (a) and (b) of the Beijing Platform for Action).

- Priority should be given to the development of flexible programmes to recognize and certify the skills and competencies acquired during periods of caregiving applicable to the lifelong and further educational system as well as reinsertion into the labour market (see paras. 73 and 88 (a) and (c) of the Platform for Action).

- Family caregivers require training and education in support of their important work in raising and educating children, and in supporting and caring for disabled and elderly family members in need of care. Tailored education and training programmes are required to enable caregivers to carry out their work for the benefit of those in need of care, education and support, in a context of ensuring positive outcomes for caregivers.

- The relatively slow progress in this area is due partially to the invisibility of unpaid caregiving. Therefore, the Fédération européenne des femmes actives au foyer seeks the implementation of strategic objective H.3 of the Platform for Action through efforts to quantitatively and qualitatively reflect unremunerated work in relevant socio-economic statistics prepared by United Nations agencies and Member States. The Fédération européenne des femmes actives au foyer further calls on the Economic and Social Council and the Statistical Commission to coordinate the development of satellite GDP, time-use survey and census indicators on unremunerated caregiving and related work and asks that UN Women prioritize this issue. The Fédération européenne des femmes actives au foyer wishes to highlight the work of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with regard to unpaid caregiving and emphasize the potential of the UNDP policy approach of recognition for unpaid work as one of three key priorities underpinning development. These are examples of good practice that could be replicated

across the United Nations system and by Member States. Finally, the Fédération européenne des femmes actives au foyer wishes to highlight the good practices developed in Ireland with regard to statistics on unpaid work.